

28-Jun-2013

RM-11699 Encryption of Amateur Radio Communications

To the Commissioners:

As a licensed Amateur Radio Operator (W6SDW) since the mid-70's I have had the pleasure of operating across most of the Amateur spectrum. I have participated in many Public Service operations - ARES, Red Flag Patrols, message forwarding, phone patches.

I see no practical reason for granting the use of "encryption protocols" within the amateur spectrum. Permitting this would only lead to more unlicensed transmissions that would cause interference to this service. Yes, there are many of us still that consider amateur radio as a service - as such there needs to be open, "in-the-clear" communication within this spectrum.

How can YOU and/or amateurs themselves police this spectrum if it is overtaken with "encrypted" data ?? In short, it cannot. It will rapidly become a "zoo" There is now significant (unlawful) use by unlicensed individuals, organizations. Please, do not perpetuate the problem by allowing the use of encryption.

With all the various "data" modes being used it becomes difficult to monitor now.

In the end, are YOU (the FCC) going to aggressively monitor (decode) these transmissions? I doubt it... ..You already have a "full plate"

I recommend a NO to this proposal.

Regards,

Stephen Wilmet (W6SDW)